(vii) Grant-in-aid for purchase of equipment for monitoring pesticide residue;

(viii) Grant-in-aid for acquiring ISO 9000 accreditation;

(ix) Providing assistance for constructing warehousing facilities at major spice producing centres;

(x) Scheme for manufacturer exporters of spices for purchase of power generator;

(xi) Scheme for installation of alternative power generating system by spice house certificate/logo awarded exporters;

(xii) Reimbursement of part of the cost of packaging for, export of spices in logo packs.

(c) No Sir, on the country continued increase in exports of spices, particularly value added spices indicates an overall improvement in quality.

(d) and (e). Schemes implemented for technological and quality upgradation are :

(1) The Board is providing financial assistance to spices processing units to adopt and absorb new technology to develop new products as per the market requirements and consumer expectations.

(2) In order to equip exporters to have their own testing and analysing facilities, the Board is rendering following financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid :

(i) Purchase of basic testing and analysing facilities in the quality control loboratory;

(ii) Purchase of equipment for pesticide residue analysis;

(iii) Encouraging spices exporters to have ISO 9000 accreditation for their units through financial assistance.

(3) Awarding Indian Spices Logo to exporters meeting quality standards of spices as a mark quality.

(4) Awarding Spice House Certificate to exporters/ processors having cleaning, grading, processing and warehouse packing facilities as a mark of producers of quality spices.

Diversification of Jute Industry

*598. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has recently been taken to diversity the jute products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any 'Status paper' is being prepared which throws light on all the operational aspects of this sector, especially on the marketing of raw jute and role of Jute Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). In 1992 Government approved a 5 year national programme for jute sector with the financial assistance from UNDP. Under this programme an assistance of the order of US$ 23 million from UNDP in conjunction with Government of India's matching contribution has been provided. The major objectives of this programme are to enhance the welfare of jute farmers by implementing schemes to improve productivity facilitate the diversification of the jute sector by developing new technology, promote employment opportunities by encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up manufacturing facilities for jute-based items, assist development of the indigenous machinery manufacturing sector for catering to the diversified products programme both in the textile-related and non-textile areas and strengthen R&D efforts in these fields. As a part of this programme institutions are concentrating on product development based on new technologies and manufacturing process, new marketing strategies and R & D activities. At present, around 20 projects are under implementation at various stages of progress under this programme. Some of the ongoing various stages of progress under this programme. Some of the ongoing projects are use of jute for paper production, jute based needle-punched carpets, development of multi-component yarn from wool, jute and other fibres by using friction spinning technology for floor coverings, bankets and knitwear, human resource development etc.

(c) Two such status paper has been prepared under the UNDP Programme.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Companies in Non Priority Areas

*599. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow foreign companies to set up wholly owned subsidiaries in non-priority areas in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether Government have formulated guidelines for Foreign Investment Promotion Board in this regard and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have been allowing 100% Indian subsidiaries of the foreign companies as per the existing foreign investment policy, the sectoral policies and guidelines, the need for investment & technology for different sectors & the merit of the proposal submitted for consideration.

(c) and (d). Detailed guidelines are under preparation.